

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111  
Application No. 10/527,694  
Attorney Docket No. 052203

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A crosslinked high-molecular-weight product obtained by crosslinking a high-molecular-weight compound with a biological low-molecular-weight compound, the crosslinked high-molecular-weight product comprising a gel that is metabolized in vivo after application in vivo,

wherein the high-molecular-weight compound is collagen ~~at least one of proteins, glycosaminoglycans, chitosans, polyamino acids and polyalcohols,~~

wherein the biological low-molecular-weight compound is obtained by modifying at least one carboxyl group of malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid, or *cis*-aconitic acid with N-hydroxysuccinimide or N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide.

Claim 5-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for producing a crosslinked high-molecular-weight product comprising:

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reacting 0.001 to 10 percent by weight of malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid, or *cis*-aconitic acid with 0.001 to 10 percent by weight of N-hydroxysuccinimide or N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide in the presence of 0.001 to 20 percent by weight of carbodiimide at a reaction temperature of 0°C to 100°C for a reaction time of 1 to 48 hours to modify at least one carboxyl group of the malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid or *cis*-aconitic acid with N-hydroxysuccinimide or N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide to obtain a biological low-molecular-weight compound; and

crosslinking a high-molecular-weight compound with the biological low-molecular-weight compound so as to yield a crosslinked high-molecular-weight compound comprising a gel that is metabolized *in vivo* after application *in vivo*

wherein the high-molecular-weight compound is collagen ~~at least one of proteins, glycosaminoglycans, chitosans, polyamino acids and polyalcohols.~~

Claims 12-14 (cancelled)